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CPYRGHT

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## Peace Is Not For Sale

Pre-Munich Pitch  
Hitler Is Boosted  
Russian Pot Boils

BY RICHARD SPERBER

The popular uprising in East Germany apparently incurred a cooling effect on some of the ardent proponents of a Big Four conference with Russia's Georgi Malenkov, who, like Sir Winston



Churchill, thought that the cold war could be liquidated by more concessions to the Soviet Union.

In reality, the present time has a striking resemblance with the pre-Munich period, in 1938, when western statesmen believed they could buy peace for our time by just sitting down with a dictator and talk things over. There are more historical parallels, if we consider the underground movement then working inside Germany toward the overthrow of the Nazi government, and the potential forces of resistance dwelling within the Soviet empire today.

The situation in Germany before Munich, as aptly described by Allen Welsh Dulles, now chief of the Central Intelligence Agency and brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, in his book "Germany's Underworld," was this: When the Munich crisis approached its climax during the summer of 1938, the German general staff viscerally felt that Hitler was leading Germany inevitably into a world war, which in their opinion could not be won.

"A memorandum to this effect by Gen. Ludwig Beck, then chief of the general staff, was brushed aside by Hitler. Beck resigned, but a group of other officers, headed by Gen. Franz Halder, formed a conspiracy aimed at the removal of Hitler from office as Reich Chancellor. The plan provided that Hitler's eventual order to attack Czechoslovakia would be the signal to strike.

At the height of the crisis, on Sept. 28, 1938, at noon, Gen. Erwin von Witzleben, who was to carry out the plan, went to Halder's office to receive the orders that would start the putsch. In the midst of this crucial conversation word came that the British prime minister and the French premier would meet with Hitler in Munich the following day. Halder withdrew the order of execution, because the entire basis for the action had been taken away. Hitler emerged from the Munich conference greatly enhanced in power and prestige.

### Skepticism Grooms Word of Underground's Strength

How do we know that a similar plot against the Kremlin rulers is not in the making right now? When two years ago a young Russian immigrant and member of the anti-Communist Russian solidarist movement entered our editorial rooms and asserted that the forces of resistance in the Soviet Union were capable to overthrow the Communist regime by revolution from within, it was received with cautious skepticism.

The recent insurrection in eastern Germany may show that what has happened there could happen in Russia too. We do know that there are elements of defection within the Soviet armed forces. Anti-Communist propaganda leaflets edited by Russian refugees and smuggled into eastern Germany were found in the quarters of high ranking Soviet staff officers in Berlin-Karlshorst by their German maids.

By all means, let us not save Malenkov and his gang by another Munich and the British and French saved Hitler.